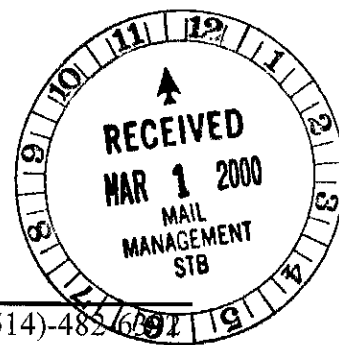


197459

M.F. WIRTH RAIL CORP.
4998 de Maisonneuve west, Suite 1502
Montreal, Quebec H3Z 1N2
e-mail: rail@wirth.ca



Tel: (514)-369-7245

Fax: (514)-482-6091

February 25, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

MAR 01 2000

Part of
Public Record

Dear Sir,

M.F. WIRTH RAIL CORPORATION is a rail supplier and user of rail service of CN and BNSF in both Canada and US. Our purpose for writing this letter is to express our view on certain issues that will be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

There are two points that the STB should take into serious consideration when reviewing the merger. The first is that the proposed merger receives a fair hearing. In the past the STB provided very efficient and thorough reviews of the UPSP, BNSF, and CN/IC mergers. The same should be done concerning the CN-BNSF merger.

The second and most important is that the STB focus on issues that will make this merger viable or not. Such issues should be service, efficiency, and competition rather than the timing of the merger. Questions that should be addressed are: Will the merger provide better customer service? Will the railroad be more efficient when combined? Will there be greater competition between the other railroads or will there be far less competition?

In conclusion, the Surface transportation should fairly evaluate the proposed CN-BNSF merger as they have done in the past while always insuring that the customers will receive prompt service, greater efficiency, and a competitive edge.

Sincerely,

Roger Skira, E.I.T

M.F. WIRTH RAIL CORPORATION, 4998 de Maisonneuve west, Suite 1502, H3Z 1N2